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REVIEWED BY Joan Izenberg DATE 10/5/81

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SUBJECT: PHAN KHAC SUU AS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

1. SAIGON DAILY NEWS MARCH 22 CARRIED BRIEF ITEM CONCERNING PHAN KHAC SUU'S REMARKS TO PRESS MARCH 21 AT WHICH TIME HE

"DISCLOSED THAT A NUMBER OF HIS FRIENDS HAD URGED HIM TO RUN FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS BUT HE HAD NOT MADE UP HIS MIND YET. HE SAID IN CASE HE WOULD RUN, HE WOULD CHOOSE DR PHAN

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PAGE 2 RUMJIR 21110 C O N F I D E N T I A L
QUANG DAN AS HIS RUNNING MATE."

2. DAN INFORMED EMBOFF MARCH 20 THAT HE HAS DEFINITELY DECIDED TO RUN AS VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ON SLATE WITH SUU. HE SAID THEIR SLATE WILL BE STRONG CONTENDER IF ELECTIONS ARE HONEST, BUT RECOGNIZED THAT MILITARY CANDIDATE WILL BE IN STRONGEST POSITION.

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3. COMMENT: THERE HAS NEVER BEEN MUCH DOUBT THAT SUU IS GOING TO RUN, NO MATTER WHAT. HIS REMARKS TO PRESS ARE PROBABLY LOW-KEY PUBLIC KICKOFF TO HIS CAMPAIGN, NOW THAT CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY DIRECTORATE. AS FOR

DAN, HE IS EAGER TO RUN, KNOWS THAT HE CAN NOT WIN AS HEAD OF TICKET, AND HOPES SUU-DAN TICKET WILL BE VERY ATTRACTIVE TO LARGE NUMBER OF SOUTHERNERS AND CENTRAL VIETNAMESE, AS WELL AS NORTHERN CIVILIANS.

GP-3. LODGE

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